

CURRENT TOPICS.

LONDON is believed to be built over a coal-bed.

The birth rate in France is rapidly decreasing.

Mrs. LOCKWOOD says she will never run for President again.

The cost of the Sioux City (Ia.) corn palace is given as \$50,000.

The Woman's Press Club of Cincinnati has thirteen members.

Yorba alligators have become numerous near Eatonville, N. J.

COLORADO men are drivers and conductors on Savannah (Ga.) street cars.

The Rev. of Kenmore denies the rumor that she has become a Protestant.

The man who first suggested Harrison for President is getting numerous.

DURHAM, the British Columbia coal king, has an income of \$3,000 a day.

The Japanese army is now 150,000 strong. It will be 200,000 before long.

The entire front of one of the banks at Riverside, Cal., is constructed of onyx.

The old State House at New Haven, Ct., is to be converted into a public library.

SIXTY MILLIONS of people change the Chief Magistrate peacefully in one day.

It is proposed in Tokyo, Japan, to erect a large monument to the memory of General Grant.

THE Persian name for Americans is Yanga Doo-ya, which means a dweller of the new world.

Mrs. SARAH ROBINSON, the Boston politician, had her sentence commuted to imprisonment for life.

NO MATTER how much a candidate may like for office, he doesn't like to be scratched on election day.

The first woman to be elected to a school trusteeship in New Hampshire is the wife of U. S. Senator Blair.

It is said that a lad of twelve and a man six feet seven inches in height play in the same band at Eastmanville, Mich.

JACK BROWN, a locomotive engineer on the Michigan Central road, is the living image of the late General Sheridan.

BETWEEN fire-trap cremations and gaseous human explosions the business of using up human lives is running on double turn.

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OUR NAVY.

Annual Report of the Chief Constructor of the Navy.

Present Strength and Condition of Our Maritime Forces.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Chief Constructor of the Navy Theodore D. Wilson has submitted to Secretary Whitney his annual report of the operations of his bureau during the last fiscal year. It shows that the sum of \$885,549 was expended in the repair of ships, purchase of tools, etc. The payments made on account of vessels building under contract up to October 31 last aggregated \$3,265,185. The present strength of the navy and condition of the vessels are stated as follows: Five double-turreted monitors awaiting completion; two belted cruisers, eleven iron and twenty-three unarmored steel and iron vessels, four of which are in commission, eleven building, two repairing, five on order, and one in ordinary; twenty-eight wooden steam vessels, nearly all on station or undergoing repairs, eleven iron and wooden steam tugboats. The estimates for the next fiscal year aggregate \$906,452, while the appropriations for the present fiscal year were \$868,032. In addition to these estimates \$5,549,000 will be required to meet payments on account of hulls and outfit of new ships, but this sum has already been appropriated. The bureau recommends the immediate construction of experimental works to cost \$50,000, for use in the determination of the resistance and other qualities of ships by means of models, holding that the tests will be of permanent value in designing high-speed vessels. The report states that the old shipyard at Hartford can be repaired for \$175,000, and would be valuable for service as a cruiser for several years. He adds that her past record as Admiral Farragut's flag-ship, victorious in battle both over iron-clads and forts, not only endears her to the American people, but also that she has outlived her usefulness as a cruiser should be preserved as a receiving ship as a monument of her past achievements. Tools are now being delivered to the New York and Norfolk Yards, and the chief constructor says that he shall soon be in possession of two yards well equipped for building steel and iron vessels of war of every size and type. Of the Mare Island (Cal.) yard he says that, being the only one on the Pacific coast, it is now being built up with a complete outfit of modern ship-building tools. The climate is such that it is perfectly practicable to conduct ship-building without the shelter of shipshouses, which are expensive; but in first cost and repairs, and do not favor rapidity of construction or excellence of workmanship, on account of the darkness.

New Fast Express.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Nov. 16.—The Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company will put on a new fast express train next Sunday, which will leave Pittsburgh at 8 a. m., and arrive at Chicago at 9:45 p. m. The train is to carry nothing but express matter. The object is to have all of the express matter, better than the different passenger trains put on one train and have it run through to Chicago in unusually short time.

Entrapped Himself.

WABASH, Ind., Nov. 18.—Ernest Unger, a hunter from Milwaukee, last night arranged a gun for deer. Getting lost in the woods he ran into his own trap and received the whole charge in the thigh. He was found this morning unconscious by a party of hunters. After being shot he dragged himself to his gun and fired several shots for help through the night. His recovery is doubtful.

Blame Don't Want a Position.

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WEST VIRGINIA.

The Result for Governor Depends on the Returns from McDowell and Wyoming Counties.

WHEELING, W. Va., Nov. 18.—The latest expression probably yet heard on the subject of the result of the State election was uttered by Judge Fleming, Democratic candidate for Governor, at Grafton to-day. Said he: "The vote on Governor will be exceedingly close—too close for comfort. The result depends almost entirely on the returns from McDowell and Wyoming Counties. If the majority there are what the Democratic committee claims from unofficial sources I will be elected by about 100 majority, but if, on the contrary, the returns prove to be what the Republicans estimate, Goff will be elected by a small majority." The Judge seemed rather to expect the returns will confirm the Republican estimate.

WHEELING, W. Va., Nov. 18.—T. B. Riley, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee of West Virginia, has sent the following dispatch to the Post:

WHEELING, W. Va., Nov. 17.—The official returns from this State are sufficiently certain to warrant the announcement of the election of Judge A. B. Fleming, the Democratic candidate for Governor, by a small but sure majority. The rest of the State ticket is elected by larger majority.

The Legislature will stand on joint ballot 40 Democrats, 10 Republicans and 1 Labor-Union Independent.

HORRIBLE CRIME CONFESSED.

The Rusher Brothers Tell How John Anderson Was Butchered.

OWENSBORO, Ky., Nov. 18.—Abe and Henry Rusher, arrested in Hancock County for the murder of John Anderson, have confessed their crime. Anderson, who was a well-to-do farmer, went to Chas. Smith's house for the purpose of buying his farm, should leave the neighborhood. Smith, who understood the cause of Anderson's proposal, became incensed and threatened him. Anderson started to leave the house, when one of the Rusher boys knocked him down. He staggered to his feet, when the other Rusher stabbed him in the neck with a dirk, killing him instantly. Anderson fell onto the door, and Smith's daughter, Miss Alvin Holder, grabbed a butcher knife and stabbed the prostrate man through the throat. When night came the body was mutilated so that it could not be identified. The Rusher boys, however, were not so easily fooled. When Anderson was murdered, the Rushers were arrested under suspicion, and held till the body was found. There was no positive evidence against them until the confession, which was made last night. The jail at Hanoverville is now guarded, as there is danger of a riot.

The Haytian Trouble.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 18.—The British steamship Texas reached her wharf yesterday. Four and a half days ago she left France. The U. S. steamer Boston had arrived and made a demand for the surrender of the steamer Haytian Republic, which had been under seizure by the Legation at New Orleans. The demand was about to be acceded to, when the British steamer, having a few minutes later a light cap fell upon the deck, and the crew of the steamer, who stood there shrunk back at sight of one whom he was not expecting to see.

ROCKVILLE, Md., Nov. 18.—Wm. Davis, twenty-three years of age, residing near Damascus, this county, on Thursday afternoon, while his mother was sick in bed, walked out of the house and committed suicide by shooting himself. His mother, who was a devoted mother, lived but a few moments after being informed of the tragedy. The family is in a state of great grief.

WARREN, Ind., Nov. 18.—There is a serious epidemic of diphtheria raging in this city, and already over a dozen deaths have occurred within a comparatively short time. The scourge is confined wholly to children whose ages have ranged from one to ten years. Every case has so far resisted treatment and proved fatal, the patient dying in two or three days.

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